



UNITED WAY
Wayne County

April 2026

UNITED NEWS

SAVE THE DATES!

April 27:

"A Night Full of Heroes" Volunteer Ceremony

May 9:

Letter Carrier Food Drive

May 15:

Founder's Cup Golf Tournament

June 18:

Day of Action

July 16:

Nonprofit Summit



Celebrating 100 Years of Impact at Annual Meeting

United Way of Wayne County recently marked an incredible milestone, 100 years of service, at its Annual Meeting, bringing together volunteers, partners, and community leaders to celebrate a year of impact and look ahead to the future. The event highlighted the organization's continued commitment to addressing poverty through its Issue Focus initiative, with a bold goal of helping 12,000 community members achieve financial stability by 2035.

Throughout the program, leaders shared powerful updates on the growing impact of the United Community Assistance Network (UCAN), which served nearly 1,000 individuals in 2025 alone. Attendees also celebrated campaign successes, including over \$821,000 raised to support local programs and more than 100 workplace presentations that helped expand community engagement. The morning concluded with recognition of outstanding volunteers and partners, reinforcing United Way's mission to bring people and resources together to create lasting change across Wayne County.

Individual Award Recipients:

- **Committee Member of the Year:**
Marlee Ray
- **Campaign Chairman's Award:**
Maegen Wilson (Wayne County Public Library)



- **Campaign Coordinator of the Year:** Heather Hoggard (Sentry Insurance)
- **Emil Rosenthal Volunteer of the Year:** Lisa Musselman (Crawford Henderson Insurance)

Spirit of Wayne Award Winners:

- **Innovator Award:** Caterpillar Fluid Transfer Solutions
- **Investors Award:** Atlantic Casualty Insurance Company
- **Changed Lives Award:** Norwayne Middle School
- **Fair Share Award:** County of Wayne
- **Per Capita Award:** Seymour Funeral Home & Cremation Service
- **Special Events Award:** Prolec-GE Wakesha

United Way of Wayne County proudly recognized these individuals and organizations whose dedication and generosity continue to strengthen our community. These award winners represent the very best of what it means to LIVE UNITED.



Continuing a Legacy of Care Through Faith and Partnership



Issue Focus Transformation Summit Three

United Way of Wayne County is expanding its United Community Assistance Network (UCAN) while strengthening partnerships with local faith communities and building on the legacy of United Church Ministries (UCM), which served Wayne County for more than 40 years. Following UCM's closure, its remaining assets will now support UCAN, helping provide critical assistance to individuals and families facing crisis.

As part of this effort, United Way is reconnecting with churches that were part of the UCM network to ensure continued collaboration and impact. A key milestone was reached when First Christian Church became the first congregation to support UCAN, reflecting a shared commitment to meeting community needs and ensuring no neighbor faces hardship alone.

Local Partners to Be Honored with Spirit of North Carolina Awards

United Way of Wayne County is proud to celebrate four outstanding community partners who have been selected as 2026 Spirit of North Carolina Award recipients by United Way of North Carolina. These organizations will be recognized on May 13th in Raleigh for their exceptional leadership, engagement, and commitment to making a difference in Wayne County.

This year's honorees include:

- **ALTA Foods** – Community Resiliency
- **Wayne County Chamber of Commerce** – Intentional Inclusion
- **Downtown Goldsboro Development Corporation** – Leaders in Volunteering
- **County of Wayne** – Sustainability Through Engagement

The Spirit of North Carolina Award recognizes organizations that go above and beyond in their support of local United Ways through impactful workplace



United Way of Wayne County recently hosted its Third Issue Focus Summit, bringing together approximately 75 community leaders, nonprofit partners, educators, and public officials to continue important conversations around addressing poverty in Wayne County. The summit focused on identifying key root causes impacting local families while fostering collaboration across sectors to better understand both existing strengths and critical gaps in services.

Through guided discussions, participants explored opportunities to strengthen leadership, improve coordination, and align resources for greater impact. Insights gathered from the summit will help guide the organization's next steps as it works to identify priority areas for long-term investment. As part of United Way's ongoing Issue Focus Transformation, this work reflects a commitment to data-driven decisions and sustainable solutions that create lasting change for the community.

campaigns, volunteerism, and community leadership. We are incredibly proud to see these partners recognized at the state level and grateful for the role they play in strengthening our community every day.

Meet Our 2026 Funded Partners!



Join Us on the Course for a Great Cause



Join United Way of Wayne County for the annual Founder's Cup Golf Tournament, a day of friendly competition, connection, and community impact, on May 15th at Walnut Creek Country Club. This signature event brings together local businesses, leaders, and supporters to raise critical funds that support programs improving lives across Wayne County.

We are now accepting team registrations and tee sign sponsors. Whether you're hitting the course with a team or promoting your business through sponsorship, your participation makes a direct difference. Don't miss your chance to be part of this meaningful event! Secure your team or sponsorship today and help us drive change in our community.

Click Here to Register Your Team!

OR

Sponsor a Tee Sign

United Way of Wayne County
Phone 919-735-3591
Email savannah@unitedwayne.org
Website unitedwayne.org

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United Way of Wayne County | 309 N. William Street P.O. Box 10893 | Goldsboro, NC 27530 US

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